

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Albania
Program Title:	Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	182-0210
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$4,327,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,809,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$4,327,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	FY 1992
Estimated Completion Date:	FY 2004

Summary: The USAID Civil Society program promotes civil society participation through: technical assistance to political operatives across political organizations; training of national, district and local election commissions; training and technical assistance to NGOs working in conflict management; assistance in the implementation of NGO law reform; training of citizens' groups to interface with government; technical assistance and training to create a professional and sustainable independent media; technical assistance to municipalities in finance, governance and corruption prevention; and technical assistance to municipalities and the GOA on decentralization issues.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Preparation for local elections in October 2003 (costs by major theme provided below) will be a crosscutting element in USAID's civil society work.

Improvement in the organization and management of political institutions (\$1,536,000 AEEB). Political operatives will be trained in effective branch operations and more public involvement in local elections. Disaffected youth of Albania will be organized to become involved in the political process. Parliamentarians will be trained in effective legislative practices. The election commission structure (comprising 3,300 members) will receive training on their rights and responsibilities. The citizen voter registry will undergo further improvement to further enable citizens to vote. The Civic Forum program will educate over 2,000 Albanian citizens in the principles of democracy and the exercise of their democratic rights. Grantees include: International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) (also utilizing funds from Italians and Dutch), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) (prime).

Conflict management and NGO support (\$700,000 AEEB). Training and technical assistance will be provided to a pool of over 130 NGOs throughout Albania while administering a small grants program that will financially assist over 20 NGOs. Training includes governance, management, finance, outreach and advocacy. Work continues on effective implementation of the liberal NGO law passed in May 2001. Contractors/grantees include: Partners for Democratic Change, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (Primes).

The professional media campaign (\$600,000 AEEB). Continued support will be provided to the widely popular "Heroes of Albania" TV show (70 episodes by the end of FY 2002) wherein normal citizens are provided weekly recognition of their efforts to improve their communities and build a sense of community pride. An anti-corruption and anti-trafficking TV program will be launched, with a minimum of 12 episodes produced and aired twice a month, to build public support to stop corruption and trafficking. Individual TV stations and print media will continue to receive technical assistance to improve objectivity and profitability. Contractors/grantees include: International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) (Prime) and the Albania Media Institute (Sub).

Local government capacity building and assistance on decentralization (\$1,491,000 AEEB). Technical assistance will be provided to municipalities to ensure their concerns on this topic are heard and addressed. Municipalities will also receive training on basic modern accounting, budgeting, taxation, and revenue collection methodologies. The pilot program on municipal anti-corruption efforts will be expanded into additional municipalities. Various GoA ministries will receive technical assistance on the devolution of central functions to local governments. This program is due to terminate at the end of FY03. A determination will be made if assistance should continue. If so, a new program will be designed and competitively let. Contractors/grantees include: Urban Institute (Prime), Institute for Contemporary Studies (Sub).

FY 2004 Program:

Improvement in the organization and management of political institutions (\$1,536,000 AEEB). The results of the October 2003 local government elections will temper the approach to be taken in building political party strengths and improving the performance of the election process. Inputs will be targeted at political leaders and the electoral commissions. Training of Parliament (legislative affairs) and Albanian youth organizations (advocacy) is planned.

Conflict management and NGO support (\$700,000 AEEB). An evaluation of the program is planned to determine future needs.

The professional media campaign (\$600,000 AEEB). The protection of intellectual property rights will be a major issue. A central TV distribution point for broadcast media will be established for the sale of intellectual property. An evaluation will be carried out during the FY to determine the need for further assistance.

Local government capacity building and assistance on decentralization (\$1,491,000 AEEB). This is based upon the premise that a new program will be in place by the end of FY 2003. The gains made in decentralization will be consolidated while efforts to increase the capacity of local governments to carry out their new mandates will focus on those areas found to be the weakest. Inputs would likely be technical assistance to the line Ministries to absorb the implications of decentralization and training to the village level governments in budgeting, expenditure control, fee setting and taxation.

Performance and Results: USAID's civil society activities began to pay dividends in FY 2002 as a result of continued improvement in Albania's political environment. A major area of advance was decentralization. USAID-supported local government activities included the development of a transparent formula for the transfer of funds from the central government to local governments, a reform that will afford greater discretion for local governments over larger budgets, as well as enable better local budget planning and, possibly, greater local citizen involvement. Election administration continued to move toward international standards; more Albanians reportedly viewed the 2001 parliamentary election results as valid compared to the four previous elections. Notwithstanding its weakness and donor dependence, the NGO sector saw advances in advocacy activities of certain organizations which have become more aggressive in setting national and local government priorities, along with gains in membership and expansion of their operations to new areas. USAID broadcast media work has helped focus public attention on the intractable issue of corruption, stimulated civic action, and engaged citizen-business partnerships in funding community improvements projects.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Albania

182-0210 Civil Society	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	27,677	1,250
Expenditures	22,961	1,250
Unliquidated	4,716	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	6,162	0
Expenditures	3,785	0
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	33,839	1,250
Expenditures	26,746	1,250
Unliquidated	7,093	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	1,809	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	4,327	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	6,136	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	4,327	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	44,302	1,250